THE HVMBLE PETITION AND DECLARATION

(29.)

of both Houſes of Parliament, to the KINGS Moſt Excellent Majeſtie,

Sent to *Yorke* by one Lord, and two Members of the Houſe of Commons, on *Wednesday* the 23. of *March*. 1641.

In Anſwer to every particular of his Majeſties Speech at *Newmarket*; which he made to the Committee of both Houſes when they preſented the laſt Declaration.

With their Additionall Information received from the Governour of *Rotterdam*, concerning the great Fleet prepared in *Denmarke*, which by means of the Lord *Digby* ſhould have beene tranſported over to *Hull*.

Whereunto is added,
A Coppy of the Petition, delivered to the King at *Newark*, by the Inhabitants of *Lincolne*.

London, Printed by the coppy that was printed for *Iohn Wright*. *Ann. Dom.* 1641.

THE HUMBLE PETITION AND DECLARATION

March 23. 1641.

TO THE KINGS Most Excellent Majestie.

The humble Petition and Declaration of the Lords and Commons, assembled in PARLIAMENT.

May it please your Majestie,

Our Majesties most loyall Subjects, the Lords and Commons in Parliament, cannot conceive that the Declaration which your Majestie received from us at *Newmarket*, was such as did deserve that censure your Majestie was pleased to lay upon us, in that Speech which your Majestie

made to our Committees there, and ſent in writing to both Houſes; our addreſſe therein being accompanied with plainneſſe, humility, and faithfulneſſe, wee thought more proper for removing the diſtraction of the Kingdome, then if we had then proceeded according to your Majeſties Meſſage of the 20. of *Ianuary*. By which your Majeſtie was pleaſed to deſire, that we would declare what we intended to doe for your Majeſtie, and what we expected to be done for our ſelves. In both which we have beene very much hindered by your Majeſties denyall to ſecure us and the whole Kingdome, by diſpoſing the *Militia*, as we had diverſe times moſt humbly petitioned, and yet we have not beene altogether negligent of either; having lately made good proceedings in preparing a book of Rates, to be paſſed in a Bill of Tunnage and Poundage: and likewiſe the moſt materiall heads of thoſe humble deſires which we intended to make for the good and contentment of your Majeſtie and your people: but none of theſe could be perfected before the Kingdom be put into ſafety by ſetling the *Militia*. And until your Majeſtie ſhall be pleaſed to concurre with your Parliament in theſe neceſſary things, we hold it impoſſible for you to give the World or your People ſuch ſatisfaction concerning the fears and jealouſies which we have expreſſed, as we hope your Majeſtie hath already received, touching that exception which you were pleaſed to take to Maſter *Pyms* Speech.

As for your Majeſties feares and doubts, the ground whereof is from ſeditious Pamphlets and Sermons, we ſhall be as carefull to endeavour the removall, as ſoone as wee ſhall underſtand what Pamphlets and

Sermons

Sermons are by your Majestie intended; as we have beene to prevent all dangerous Tumults. And if any extraordinary concourse of people out of the Citie to *Westminster*, had the face and shew of tumult and danger in your Majesties apprehension, it will appeare to be caused by your Majesties denyall of such a guard to your Parliament as they might have cause to confide in, and by taking into White-hall such a Guard for your selfe, as gave just cause of jealousie to the Parliament; and of terrour and offence to your People. We seek nothing but your Majesties Honour, and the peace and prosperity of your Kingdomes. And we are heartily sorry we have such plentifull matter of an answer to that question, Whether you had violated our Laws? We beseech You to remember that the Government of this Kingdom as it was in a great part managed by your Ministers before the beginning of this Parliament, consisted of many continued and multiplied Acts of violation of Lawes, the wounds whereof were scarcely healed, when the extremity of all these violations, was far exceeded by the late strange and unheard of breach of our lawes in the Accusation of the Lord *Kimbolton*, and the five Members of the Commons House, and in the proceedings thereupon: for which we have yet received no full satisfaction.

To your Majesties next question, Whether you had denied any Bill for the ease and security of your Subjects, we wish we could stop in the midst of our answer; that with much thankfulnesse we acknowledge that your Majesty hath past many good Bils full of contentment, and advantage to your People. But Truth and Necessity enforceth us to adde this, That

even in or about the time of passing those Bils, some designe or other had been afoot, which if it had taken effect, would not onely have deprived us of the fruit of those Bils, but have reduced us to a worse condition of confusion than that wherein the Parliament found us.

And if your Majesty had asked us the third question intimated in that Speech, what we had done for your selfe, our answer would have been much more easie, That we have paid two Armies wherewith the Kingdom was burthened last year; and have undergone the charge of the war in IRELAND at this time; when through many other excessive charges and pressures, whereby your Subjects have been exhausted, and the stocke of the Kingdom very much diminished; which great mischiefes, and the charges thereupon ensuing, have been occasioned by the evill counsels so powerfull with your Majesty, which have and will cost this Kingdom more than two millions: all which in justice ought to have been borne by your Majesty.

As for that free and general pardon your Majesty hath been pleased to offer, it can be no security to our feares and jealousies, for which your Majesty seemes to propound it; because they arise not from any guilt of our own actions, but from the evill designes and attempts of others.

To this our humble Answer to that Speech, we desire to adde an information which we lately received from the Deputy Governour of the Merchant Adventurers at Roterdam in Holland, That an unknown person appertaining to the Lord *Digby* did lately sollicite one *Iames Henly* a Mariner to go to Elsenore, and

to

to take charge of a Ship in the Fleet of the King of Denmarke there prepared, which he ſhould conduct to Hull: in which Fleet likewiſe he ſaid a great Army was to be tranſported. And although we are not apt to give credit to Informations of this nature, yet we cannot altogether thinke it fit to be neglected, but that it may juſtly adde ſomewhat to the weight of our feares and jealouſies, conſidering with what circumſtances it is accompanied of the Lord *Digbies* preceding expreſſions in his Letter to her Majeſty, and Sir *Lewis Dives*; and your Majeſties ſucceeding courſe of withdrawing your ſelfe Northward from your Parliament, in a manner very ſutable and correſpondent to that evil counſel.

Which we doubt will make much deeper impreſſion in the generality of your People. And therefore we moſt humbly adviſe and beſeech your Majeſty for the procuring and ſetling the confidence of your Parliament and all your Subjects, and for the other important reaſons concerning the recovery of Ireland and ſecuring this Kingdom, which have been formerly preſented to your Majeſty, you will be graciouſly pleaſed with all convenient ſpeed to returne to theſe parts, and to cloſe with the Counſell and deſire of your Parliament: where you ſhall finde their dutifull affections and endeavours, ready to attend your Majeſty with ſuch entertainment, as ſhall not onely give your Majeſty juſt cauſe of ſecurity in their faithfulneſſe; but other manifold evidences of their earneſt intentions and endeavours to advance your Majeſties ſervice, honour and contentment; and to eſtabliſh it upon the ſure foundation of the peace and proſperity of all your Kingdomes.

FINIS.

A coppy of the Petition delivered to the KING at *Newark*, in his Majesties passage to *Yorke*, by divers of the Inhabitants of the County of *Lincolne*.

To the KINGS Most Excellent Majestie.

The humble Petition of your Majesties loving Subjects, in the County of Lincolne.

IN all humility representing, as our thankfullest acknowledgements to God, and to your Majesty, of the gracious blessings which we have for these many yeeres enjoyed under your Majesties Government, and particularly the blessed fruits of this present Parliament, by your Majesties wisedom and goodnesse assembled, whereby many wholesome lawes have been enacted for the great honour of your Majesty, the relief of your People, the prosperous Government of this Kingdom, and happy setling of the late troubles in both Kingdomes. So also our saddest regreat for any the least misunderstanding and differences which have happened between your sacred Majesty and the said Parliament, or any of the Members of the same, with our many distractions thereupon, and feares of the utter ruine of your Majesty, your royall Posterity and Kingdomes, by the malicious and insolent designes of the Popish party, and the advantage that forraigne enemies may take thereby.

Humbly prostrating our selves at your Majesties feet, do most affectionately pray, That your Majesty and Parliament may by all good meanes be firmely re-united, and for that purpose, That you would graciously please to reside neer, and listen unto the faithfull Counsels of your said Parliament; Whereby Romish Idolatry and Superstition may be extirpated, The Church and Common-wealth duly reformed, the true Religion, and all things setled in a blessed peace under your Majesties government, And we shall still have further cause to continue our cheerfull Aides, both of persons and estates, for your Majesty and your Kingdomes prosperity and honour,

And ever pray for your Majesties long and happy Reigne over us, &c.

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